Misuse of fund for rehabilitation of bonded labourers in Deoghar, Bihar

332. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the amount of rupees twelve lakhs sanctioned for rehabilitation of bonded labourers in the Deoghar district of Bihar was used in purchasing cows which were all old and dry and that too at a very high rate and most of those cows supplied to the bonded labourers have died; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of Jute Industry

333. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to advance money for the modernisation of jute industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The Jute Industry is entitled to get loan for modernisation under the Soft Loan Scheme of the financial institutions. The Government have not recently taken any decision to advance money separately for the modernisation of jute industry.

Recovery of loans given to the Jute Industry for Modernisation

334. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of money was advanced for modernisation of jute industry several years back;

(b) if so, to whom the money was given; what was the amount and how much out of that amount has since been recovered;

(c) what amount is still in arrears and the parties from whom it is to be recovered; and

(d) what steps been taken for the recovery of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provident fund outstanding against jute mill owners in West Bengal

335. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact a number of jute mill owners in West Bengal have not deposited the Provident Fund money collected from the workers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir, 31 Jute Mills (29 exempted and 2 unexempted) were in default in payment of EPF dues (including employees' share of contribution) as on 31-3-1986.

(b) The EPF authorities have filed cases under the EPF Act against 17 establishments, and complaints under section 406/409 IPC against 12 establishments. However, in most of the cases, the jute mills have obtained stay orders from the High Courts. Some of these establishments have also obtained orders from the Court for payment of outstanding dues in monthly instalments spread over a long period. In view of these developments, the question of recovery of